



# Veterans' and Military Affairs Advisory Board

New Mexico Veterans' Memorial

May 20, 2015

## Minutes

### Those Present:

Roger Newall, Archie Garcia, Ken O'Keefe, Stephen Asher, Brian Leen,  
David Sparks, Chris Timm, and SECRETARY: Beth Hemmerich

### Guests:

Don Loftis and Pete Comstock

### Those Excused:

Steve Overman, Pat Gaston, Jonathan Strawn, Mike Scramski, and Martin Ethridgehill

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Roger Newall at 9:10 am
- II. Review and Accept of Minutes from April 15, 2015
  - a. The motion to accept the March minutes was approved. No changes were made.
- III. Public Comments –
  - Chris Timm gave an update on the *Run for the Wall*. He informed the group that the ride went well. There were over 100 motorcyclists who crossed through New Mexico on their cross-country ride gathering in Washington DC for Memorial Day. American Legion Post 13 hosted a dinner for the group. APD and BCSO escorted the group through the City.
  - It was announced that Harry Mizel was opening his New Mexico Museum of Military Vehicles History Museum. Grand opening was set for Memorials Day, May 25, 2015, at 3:00pm.
- IV. Unfinished Business
  - a. Albuquerque Employee Coins
    - Roger Newall informed the group that coins have been sent to all departments and he is waiting to hear back from each department that they have delivered them.
  - b. Hiring Preference
    - Roger Newall informed the group that the greater Albuquerque area is hiring 6%-8% veterans. 1%-2% of veterans hired in the private sector is considered successful.
  - c. Membership
    - All positions on the Veterans and Military Affairs Advisory Board have been filled.
    - There are a few positions open for renewal and re-election towards the end of the year.
  - d. Projects
    - Roger announced the plans to have cameras installed at the NMVM is still in the works, but the cost to install and where is still up in the air. The APD already has the cameras, needs to test them in locations and see if they work, and then install them.
    - Roger has taken up a new project. The "Appreciation and Heartfelt Thanks" flag. Roger passed out the flags to show everyone what the flag and thank you card look like.
  - e. Legislation – No update was given
  - f. Update Future Events
- V. New Business:
  - Purple Heart City signs Presentation and Mounting – Roger Newall informed the group that the City has hung the signs around town.

- The group welcomed Don Loftis and Pete Comstock and did introductions.
- Roger Newall asked Don Loftis, President of the New Mexico Veterans Memorial “what can this Board do to help the NMVM.”
  - Don informed the group that maintenance and “fix it” items are where the NMVM needs the most help; The facilities here are getting old and just in need of a little tender loving care.
- Roger presented Don Loftis and Pete Comstock with a Purple Heart City sign to be hung at the entrance of the NMVM. The group took a few pictures and then proceeded outside to view the hanging of the sign.
- It was announced that NO meeting will take place in July.
- Future Events:
  - June 14, 2015, Flag Day – Flag Day Event at NMVM Amphitheater
  - June 20, 2015, Warriors Memorial Run
  - July Veterans and Military Affairs Advisory Board CANCELLED

VI. Setting of Future Meetings – June 17, 2015 at 9:00 am at the NM Veterans’ Memorial. We will take a tour of the facilities for the meeting this month. Roger Newall will invite Tina Reems, the architect, who helped design the grounds and museum to join us for our Memorial tour.

VII. Adjourn – 10:35 am.

DRAFT